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instead be implemented in software, or vice versa. For example, the wireless signal indicator discussed above may instead (or in addition) be provided as a software application. Such alterations, modifications, and improvements are intended to be part of this disclosure and are intended to be within the scope of the invention. Accordingly, the foregoing description and drawings are by way of example only.

What is claimed is:

1. A portable computer configurable between a plurality of display modes including a laptop mode and an easel mode wherein transitions between the plurality of display modes allows an operator to interact with a single display screen in each of the plurality of display modes, the portable computer comprising:

a base including a keyboard;

a main display component rotatably coupled to the base such that the main display component and the base are rotatable with respect to one another about a longitudinal axis running along an interface between the main display component and the base to transition between at least the laptop mode and the easel mode, the main display component including the single display screen, wherein the transition between the laptop mode and the easel mode allows the operator to operate the portable computer while viewing the single display screen in each of the plurality of display modes, wherein

the laptop mode is configured to display to a user on the main display component a first content mode having a first content display orientation with the main display component oriented towards the user and the keyboard oriented to receive input from the user;

the easel mode is configured to display to the user on the main display component a second content mode having a second content display orientation with the main display component oriented towards the user and the keyboard oriented away from the user, wherein the first and second content display orientations are 180 degrees relative to each other, and wherein the portable computer is operable in the easel mode to enable the user to interact with displayed content without interacting with the keyboard; and

a navigation control disposed at least partially within the base and rotatable about the longitudinal axis, the navigation control configured to permit a user to control at least one of operating parameters of the portable computer and content displayed on the single display screen wherein the plurality of modes includes a frame in which the main display component is oriented towards the operator, the base contacts a substantially horizontal surface, and the keyboard faces the substantially horizontal surface.

2. The portable computer of claim 1, where the navigation control includes a scroll wheel configured to permit the user to adjust a volume of sound produced by the portable computer.

3. The portable computer of claim 1, further comprising a first navigation button disposed on one of the base and the display component and configured to permit the user to manipulate selected content displayed on the screen.

4. The portable computer of claim 3, wherein the screen is configured to display at least one of a plurality of modes of content; and

wherein the navigation button is configured to permit the user to select for display one of the plurality of modes of content.

5. The portable computer of claim 3, further comprising a second navigation button;

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wherein the first navigation button is disposed on a major surface of the base; and

wherein the second navigation button is disposed on a minor surface of the base.

6. The portable computer of claim 1, wherein the navigation control includes a scroll wheel configured to permit the user to select a mode of content for display by the portable computer.

7. The portable computer of claim 1, wherein rotating either the display component or the base about the longitudinal axis up to approximately 180 degrees from a closed mode in which the display screen is disposed substantially against the base configures the portable computer into the laptop mode; and

wherein rotating either the display component or the base about the longitudinal axis beyond approximately 180 degrees from the closed mode configures the portable computer into the easel mode.

8. The portable computer of claim 1, wherein the frame mode is configured to display to a user on the main display component the first content mode having the first content display orientation.

9. The portable computer of claim 1, wherein the portable computer is configured to prevent the portable computer from responding to keyboard input when the portable computer is in the frame mode.

10. A portable computer configurable between a plurality of display modes including a laptop mode and an easel mode wherein transitions between the plurality of display modes permit an operator to interact with a single display screen in each of the plurality of display modes, the portable computer comprising:

a base including a keyboard;

a main display component rotatably coupled to the base and including the single display screen which displays content;

a hinge assembly disposed at least partially within the base and the main display component that defines an axis of rotation about which both the base and the main display component are rotatable to transition the portable computer between at least the laptop mode and the easel mode, wherein the transition between the laptop mode and the easel mode allows the operator to operate the portable computer while viewing the single display screen in each of the plurality of display modes, wherein the laptop mode is configured to display to a user on the main display component a first content mode having a first content display orientation with the main display component oriented towards the user and the keyboard oriented to receive input from the user;

the easel mode is configured to display to the user on the main display component a second content mode having a second content display orientation with the main display component oriented towards the user and the keyboard oriented away from the user, wherein the first and second content display orientations are 180 degrees relative to each other, and wherein the portable computer is operable in the easel mode to enable the user to interact with displayed content without interacting with the keyboard; and

a navigation control accessible in each of the plurality of display modes and configured to permit a user to manipulate at least one of operating parameters of the portable computer and the content displayed on the single display screen wherein the plurality of modes includes a frame mode in which the main display component is oriented towards the operator, the base con-